

Born and raised in Little Rock, Director Hendrix dedicated her life to public service. From serving as a nurse, to local government, to her philanthropic endeavors, she always put our community first.

Erma spent over 15 years representing her community as part of Little Rock City's Board of Directors representing Ward 1. Known for her passion, she spent her career fighting for racial equality and greater representation in city governance.

I value having the opportunity to work alongside Director Hendrix. I am grateful to have known her for so long and so favorably, and I know that the city of Little Rock is better for the service and work of Director Erma Hendrix. God rest her soul.

### HEARTBEATS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today on behalf of our Nation's unborn children, children, let me remind you, with heartbeats at 6 weeks, with fingers and toes at 10 weeks, and with the ability to feel and react to pain as early as 12 weeks. For too long, our Nation's leaders have tolerated the murder of millions of our precious children through cruel and painful abortions. Madam Speaker, this cruelty and insanity must stop.

Many States have passed legislation to protect both these unborn babies and their mothers, but my Democratic colleagues are actively attempting to undermine and overturn these protections through H.R. 3755, the Abortion on Demand Until Birth Act.

In addition, the bill disregards the conscience rights of millions of Americans. An Associated Press poll released in June of this year shows that up to 66 percent of adults believe abortions should be illegal in the second trimester and up to 81 percent in the third trimester. Yet H.R. 3755 is set in direct contradiction to the beliefs of the people as it allows for full-term abortions for any reason under the bill's all-inclusive health clause.

The abortion on demand bill is murder in the first degree.

Madam Speaker, it is impossible to justify the murder of a precious child in the womb. We all know that it is wrong to take innocent life, and no amount of slick talk will make it right.

The scientific community has made great advancements through modern medicine and patient care practices to extend longevity for those who could not otherwise survive on their own, both old and young.

At the time of *Roe v. Wade*, the average life expectancy for a man was close to 68 years and for a woman 75 years. Today, the average life expectancy is 78 years for men and nearly 83 for women. These are significant increases thanks to modern medicine.

Such scientific and medical advancements have also proven viability for many infants born as early as 21 weeks gestational age, a feat that was nearly impossible at the time of *Roe v. Wade* or *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. We also now know that a heartbeat exists at 6 weeks.

While science is ever improving, the moral and ethical considerations are crystal clear: To end an innocent human life is to end a heartbeat. That is murder.

I firmly believe that life begins at conception, and speaking objectively, I ask you this: What better scientific metric to determine the existence of life than the presence of a heartbeat? You have a heartbeat, and I have a heartbeat. We both are alive. A heartbeat means life. When a heartbeat ceases, then life ceases. So when a heartbeat is present, we know there is life. When two heartbeats are present, a mom and her child, we know there are two lives.

Madam Speaker, a heartbeat is a defining evidence of life.

A small child and an aged adult alike can both wrap their minds around the fact that a heartbeat equals life, and that to end a heartbeat is to end life.

This bill, H.R. 3755, ends heartbeats, so it ends life. The Declaration of Independence says: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men . . ."

Life is the first of the unalienable rights mentioned in the Declaration of Independence. And to secure these rights, government is instituted. To protect life is our first responsibility. We cannot ignore this. We must not ignore this.

Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to reject H.R. 3755 and join me in standing for the sanctity of life, for the preservation of the most innocent heartbeats in America. *Soli Deo gloria*.

### STOP PRETENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today because our border is still in crisis. I rise today to bring attention to the dereliction of duty by this President occurring at our southern border. Most of all I rise to ask this: Can we all stop pretending?

Can we stop pretending that this administration deserves any benefit of the doubt, pretending it is a tough situation beyond their control, pretending that this administration, and frankly, the entire Democratic Party have any intention of solving the border crisis. Stop pretending as if this isn't purposeful, because it is.

When every single policy measure that you partake in results in more il-

legal immigration, well, then it stands to reason using the powers of deduction that maybe you want more illegal immigration. So let's stop pretending otherwise.

And while we are at it, let's also stop pretending that more than a tiny fraction of those illegally crossing our border have any valid claims to asylum whatsoever. We all know it. We all know that they are coming because it is easy and because America is a pretty great place. We all know they were trained by their drug cartel handlers to repeat certain phrases that make them eligible for the asylum process so that they will be given a bus ticket and maybe a court date which they will never show up for.

Let's stop pretending that this isn't just a giant scam, a giant abuse of our well-meaning and generous system.

And also, let's stop pretending mass migration is America's fault. Let's stop pretending to listen to outlandish claims of climate change causing migration or the tired old refrain of, well, it is American imperialistic foreign policy or whatever, and so let's just let everybody in.

And let's stop pretending that this isn't getting exceedingly dangerous for us. It is dangerous for our border agents. It is dangerous for our border communities. It is dangerous for the children being trafficked. It is dangerous for everyday Americans.

At our border communities, crime is rising. There is greater insecurity. There is a spike in COVID cases. And the migrants, who I thought my friends on the other side of the aisle claim to care about, well, they are paying thousands of dollars to smugglers to take them on an exceedingly dangerous journey that often ends in children dead, stranded in the desert, or in the Rio Grande.

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The only people who benefit from all of this are the drug cartels. They make money off the human misery by using asylum-seeking migrants to tie down the border agents so they can move their drugs with little to no risk. These smugglers aren't just bringing your generic pot. They are bringing fentanyl, bringing enough fentanyl to kill every single American.

Finally, let's stop pretending that the Democrats' pro-open border position has anything to do with compassion or kindness. There is nothing compassionate about tent cities, nothing compassionate about children being trafficked. There is nothing compassionate about firing American workers for not getting a COVID shot, putting them out on the street while illegal immigrants flood into our country without even a COVID test and then get treated to a bus ride or a hotel at the expense of the American taxpayer. And then, they probably get hired.

And guess what? There is nothing compassionate about allowing hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants to cut in front of millions of